



**Genevieve A. Lehanani
Kinney PhD, MEd, CTN-A, TNS**

Lecturer and Retired Director and
Associate Professor, Department
of Nursing
University of Hawaii at Hilo

Mailing address:
549 Auwae Road
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 959- 0070
E-mail: Kaiopuna@gmail.com

Expertise Areas:

Transcultural Topics

- Hawaiian health
- Mental health
- Hawaiian caring values
- Transcultural concepts in nursing curriculum

Cultural Groups

- Hawaiian
- Filipino
- Micronesian

Clinical Topics

- Ho'oponopono
- O'hana: Family
- Aumakua: 'Ohana Protectors

Research Methodology

- Ethno science

Languages spoken, read/write*

- English*
- Pigeon English*

Select Publications:

Book Chapter

Hussey L.O.L., Itano, J.K. Taoka, K.N., et al. (1993). Cancer prevention and early detection in Native Hawaiians. In M. Frank-Stromborg & S.J. Olsen (eds). *Cancer prevention and screening in minorities: Cultural implications for health care providers pp.113-38*. St. Louis, MO: Mosby.

1. What sparked my interest in Transcultural Nursing

Having Dr. Madeline Leininger as a mentor was a life changing experience. In the beginning, her Type A personality was intimidating - asking many questions and demanding satisfactory responses: "What is the Hawaiian word for caring"? Do you believe in Pele? When she told me I had to follow three Hawaiian families for one year, I thought I will never finish the project. After three years of mentorship, transcultural nursing became my life. I especially appreciated her genuine passion for Transcultural nursing and caring practices of different cultures.

At the *Star of the Sea* Church in Kalapana, District of Puna one of Father Damien's first parishes, she played a few jazzy tunes on the organ. Joyful music filled the church and spilled outside, attracting the *Keli'ihō'omalo 'ohana* (family) to the front steps of their *hale o pule* (house of prayer) awed by the *haole wahine* (white woman) playing the organ on a week day. Indeed, Dr. Leininger was a legendary influence in my life as well as others who came to know her.

2. Present/Future Directions

I hope to continue to inspire nurse educators, nursing students and health care providers to practice culturally congruent and competent care. I would like to encourage people to collectively accept a simple global mantra "tolerate the differences in others and aim to understand cultural imposition." In addition, I would love to spread the concept of caring not only to humans but also to animals, plants, land, oceans and the heavens. Let's imagine the earth embraced by a circle of caring

3. Favorite Transcultural Story

On my first clinical day as a nursing student I was assigned to a male patient post-hernia repair. After introducing myself, he asked me to lower the head of his bed. I said, "*Okie dokie*" and began lowering the bed as the patient began screaming: "Don't you call me an *okie dokie*. I am not an *oke doke*! I am not an *oke doke*!" The patient was angry so I ran out of the room in tears thinking I was going to be expelled from the diploma nursing program. I also feared that my parents may not have the money to send me back to Hawaii. In Hawaii where I grew up, *oke doke* is an affirmative expression. I had no idea that *oke doke* may have different meanings.